

THE MATCH FACTORY

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THE GREAT MATCH

CAST Ahmed Alansar, Mahamadou Alzouma,
Esentai Samer Khan, Khoshibai Edil Khan,
Wirapitang Kaapor, Kinchiran Kaapor
ORIGINAL IDEA Gerardo Olivares
SCRIPT Chema Rodríguez
ORIGINAL SOUND Carlos de Hita
SOUND EDITING Juan Ferro
SOUND MIXING Alfonso Raposo
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK Martín Meissonnier
EDITING Rori Sainz de Rozas
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Miguel Morales, Stefan Beiten, Nikolaus Weil
CO-PRODUCERS Sophokles Tasioulis, André Sikojev
PRODUCER José María Morales
DIRECTOR Gerardo Olivares

ORIGINAL TITLE La Gran Final
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Kazajo dialect (Mongolia)
Tamashek (Niger)
Tupí (Brasil)
RATIO 1 : 1,85
SOUND Dolby SRD
LENGTH 88 minutes
FORMAT 35mm

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THE GREAT MATCH



A FILM BY GERARDO OLIVARES



World Sales

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THE GREAT MATCH

How is it possible that children living in the most distant corners of the Mongolian steppes know who Ronaldo is? 'The Great Match' is a comedy in three parallel stories about the trials and tribulations of a group of men who have two things in common: they live in remote regions of the planet, and they are determined to watch the final match of the Japan-Korea 2002 World Cup between Germany and Brazil. A family of Mongolian nomads, a Tuareg camel caravan in the Sahara, and a group of Amazon Indians are our leading characters. All of them live hundreds of kilometres from the closest place where they can watch television, or they must face great difficulties getting there. However, these men have the ingenuity and willpower to achieve their goal. In a world in which access to information is seemingly simple and immediate, it is possible to live any world event in real time from a comfortable couch in our homes. However, what happens in the most isolated places on earth? Do people live their lives outside this information? Do they have access to it? It is not easy to have a television set, a power generator or a satellite dish available in these places. Nevertheless, these people are informed of everything going on in the world today, especially the feats of their sport heroes. How do they manage? In the most astonishing ways. This is what 'The Great Match' attempts to unveil, the plight of a group of men isolated on the far edges of the planet, but determined to do everything to watch a football match.

THE FILM'S ORIGINS

It all began on a trip to Mongolia. It was November 2001 and I was looking for locations for a documentary. In the Altai mountain range I came across a line of travelling nomads. There was an old television on the back of one of their horses. I asked them where they were going. "To the iron tree", replied the one who looked like the chief. I wondered what was so special about a tree to attract a group of Mongols from across the steppe. "It isn't a tree", the chief told me, "it's some pieces of iron that the soldiers left behind and they work like an antenna. It's the cup final." The World Cup final. Throughout my travels in Niger, Mongolia and the Amazon jungle, I have always found people who live completely cut off in the jungle or in the desert, or hunt with golden eagles... and who know which number Ronaldo wears on his back and how Zidane scored his latest great goal. That is how this film came about. In the film I want to show the adventures of these people who live in the most remote places on earth and share the passion for football. People who change their lives and are capable of covering many kilometres to watch a match. People who dream of watching The Great Match.

Gerardo Olivares

ALTAI MOUNTAINS (MONGOLIA)

In the Altai mountains there is an ethnic group that hunts with golden eagles. The children learn to ride a horse first, and then they learn to walk. Talaikhan is 50 years old and worked for many years in a Russian coal mine. That is where he watched his first football match. Today his brother Kumarkan got cross with him. He told me that two foxes escaped when they were out hunting. Talaikhan hadn't been paying attention. He was listening to the radio with his headphones. It was the Russian league final.



AMAZONAS (BRAZIL)

Xama invited me to go hunting with him. While he was shooting monkeys with a blowpipe he told me of his latest argument with his wife. He was born in the heart of the Amazon, in the Sanema Indian community. He has always lived in the depths of the jungle. But one day the timber merchants arrived... And they taught him about football. And he loves it. But his family doesn't understand it.



TENERE DESERT (NIGER)

I've seen them crossing the dunes in silence. They're the salt merchants. Hassan El Hadji, a noble Tuareg, leads the expedition. Today he told me that he has been crossing the desert the whole of his life, and that he worked as a translator for a German non-governmental organisation for five years. He asked after Oliver Kahn, the famous German goal keeper. He likes football. He discovered it through his German friends who gave him an old television. He's had to convince some lorry drivers to lend him a battery, but he is still worried. Some twisted old bits of iron might work as an aerial, but how does the signal reach Teneré?



GERARDO OLIVARES

Gerardo Olivares has been involved as director of wildlife, cultural and anthropology documentaries since 1991, with the participation of Canal+ and TVE, and then sold internationally (Discovery Channel, National Geographic). His last documentary 'Caravana' was produced by Pedro Almodovar's El Deseo.

WANDA FILMS

WANDA FILMS, founded by José María Morales and Miguel Morales, was created in 1992 and is a company specialized in the production and distribution of European and Latinamerican independent cinema. WANDA has distributed more than 100 films, among them works by Krzysztof Kieslowski, Roman Polanski, Claude Chabrol, Wong Kar-Wai, Wolfgang Becker and produced more than 30 feature films by directors such as Fernando Pérez ('Suite Habana', 'Madrigal'), Arturo Ripstein ('Profundo Carmesi', 'Así es la vida'), Lucrecia Martel ('La Ciénaga'), Carlos Sorín ('Historias Mínimas', 'Bombón - El Perro'), Costa Gavras ('Le Couperet'), Daniel Burman ('El abrazo partido', 'Derecho de Familia'), Sigfrid Monleón ('La Bicicleta').

GREENLIGHT MEDIA

Greenlight Media AG, a leading German production and international distribution company, provides development, finance, production and distribution for international quality films. It is committed to delivering strong entertainment brands to audiences all around the world in both film and non-film media. Founded in 1993, Greenlight Media took off with the launch of the wildly successful animated TV series 'SimsalaGrimm', which has since been distributed to over 120 territories worldwide, making it Germany's number one exported TV series of all time. 'Deep Blue', Greenlight Media's 2003 BBC Worldwide co-production Event Documentary, was the most successful German film abroad in 2004.